

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing human or animal stem cells, said method comprising:

- cell extraction;
- mechanical dissociation;
- enzymatic dissociation; and
- maintaining of the cells obtained, in a specific culture medium for preserving the diversity and plasticity of the stem cells,

said method excluding cell culture *in vitro* expansion of said stem cells.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specific culture medium comprises at least:

- a) a nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method for preparing stem cells as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stem cells are animal or human stem cells selected from the group consisting of progenitor stem cells for a tissue.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tissue is selected from the group consisting of skin, liver, heart, bone and nerve tissues.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A medicinal product comprising the human or animal stem cells, obtained according to the method of claim 1, and one or more additives comprising a specific culture medium devoid of animal serum, the culture medium comprising

- a) nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A stem cell obtained according to the method of claim 1 which is in a specific culture medium devoid of animal serum, the culture medium comprising

- a) nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method of treatment comprising implanting autologous or heterologous animal stem cells, obtained according to the method of claim 1, into an animal in need thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A cell composition comprising human or animal stem cells, obtained according to the method of claim 1; wherein the stem cells are in a specific culture medium devoid of animal serum, the culture medium comprising

- a) nutritive medium;

- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the stem cells have the ability to colonize and the ability to allow functional recovery.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method of treating disease by cell therapy or gene therapy, comprising, injecting the human or animal stem cells, obtained by the method of claim 1, into a subject in need thereof.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method for preparing stem cells as claimed in claim 2, wherein said stem cells are animal or human stem cells selected from the group consisting of progenitor stem cells for a tissue.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the tissue is selected from the group consisting of skin, liver, heart, bone and nerve tissues.